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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/729,774	12/08/2003	James M. Schreder	I20 05866US	3420

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EXAMINER

NORTON, JENNIFER L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2121

DATE MAILED: 11/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/729,774	Applicant(s) SCHREDER ET AL.	
	Examiner Jennifer L. Norton	Art Unit 2121	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 December 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-13 are pending.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: Fig. 1, element 116 and Fig. 7, element 706. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: Fig. 6, element 602. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet

should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

4. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "728" in Fig. 7 has been used to designate both "set instruction to pending" and "confirmed by operator?" and "312" in Fig. 3 has been used to designate both "current column" and "Conf Instruction". Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-7, and 9-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S Patent No.: 5,881,115 (referred to as Lipner hereinafter).

7. As per claim 1, Lipner discloses a method of providing interactive instructions in sequential control modules, comprising:

determining whether a current instruction in an output in a sequential control module is a confirmable type (col. 4, lines 12-13); The examiner takes note, that considering the choice between manual and automatic mode is the determination in a confirmable type of instruction.

determining whether said current instruction is confirmed by an operator, if said current instruction is said confirmable type (col. 6, lines 15-16); and

marking said current output as complete (col. 4, lines 14-19), if said current instruction is confirmed by said operator and said current instruction is said confirmable type.

8. As per claim 2, Lipner discloses the method further comprising:

determining whether said current instruction is an information type (col. 4, lines 12-13); and

marking said current output as complete, if said current instruction is said information type (col. 4, lines 14-19).

9. As per claim 3, Lipner discloses the method further comprising:

determining whether said current output is an automatic type (col. 4, lines 12-13);
executing an expression in said output (col. 4, lines 19-20), if said current output is said automatic type; and

storing a value of said expression to a destination reference, if said current output is said automatic type (col. 3, lines 49-51).

10. As per claim 4, Lipner discloses a system for providing interactive instructions in sequential control modules, comprising:

a user interface component (col. 3, lines 47-49, Fig. 1, element 33 and 35) to provide a table view (Fig.3);

an operator station (Fig. 1, element 19) capable of executing said user interface component (col. 3, lines 44-47); and

at least one controller (col. 3, lines 18-21) which is operated by executing at least one interactive instruction or non-interactive instruction from said table view (Fig. 3), said interactive or non-interaction instruction being part of a sequential control module (col. 3, lines 47-49 and lines 66-67).

11. As per claim 5, Lipner discloses the system further comprising:

a journaling component capable of being executing on said operator station for recording information related to the execution of said sequential control module (col. 3, lines 49-51).

12. As per claim 6, Lipner discloses the table view comprises:

a summary area for providing a name of said sequential control module (col. 2, lines 10-13, col. 5, lines 3-5 and Fig. 3, element 49) and

a list of steps in said sequential control module (col. 5, 59-60, 62-63, col. 6, lines 3-5 and Fig. 3, element 63, 65, 69),

a details area for providing a step name and a step description for a selected step in said list of steps (Fig. 3, element 65); and

a parameters area for providing a current value of at least one parameter associated with said selected step (col. 5, lines 63-65, Fig. 3, element 67).

13. As per claim 7, Lipner discloses the table view further comprises:

an additional details area (Fig. 3, element 61) for information associated with said selected step (col. 5, lines 53-57).

14. As per claim 9, Lipner discloses the details area includes a confirmation component to receive a confirmation from an operator (col. 6, lines 15-16 and Fig. 3, element 59).

15. As per claim 10, Lipner discloses the user interface component also provides a sequential function chart view (col. 4, lines 2-4, Fig. 2, element 41).

16. As per claim 11, Lipner discloses a computer readable medium having executable instructions stored thereon to perform a method of providing interactive instructions in sequential control modules, said method comprising:

providing a type indication on a display for an instruction in a sequential control module, said type being confirmable or informational (col. 4, lines 12-13);

and receiving a confirmation from an operator before completing said instruction, if said type is confirmable (col. 4, lines 14-19).

17. As per claim 12, Lipner discloses the computer readable medium further comprising:

providing at least one value of a parameter associated with said instruction on said display (col. 5, lines 63-65, Fig. 3, element 67).

18. As per claim 13, Lipner discloses the computer readable medium further comprising:

providing additional information about said current instruction on said display (col. 5, lines 53-57 and Fig. 3, element 61).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

19. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

20. Claims 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lipner in view of U.S. Patent No: 6,775,576 (referred to as Spriggs hereinafter).

21. As per claim 8, Lipner does not expressly teach the table view further comprising: a trend area for providing a graph of said at least one parameter associated with said selected step.

Spriggs teaches to a trend area for providing a graph of said at least one parameter associated with said selected step (col. 19, lines 27-30).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the teaching of Lipner to include a trend area to reduce capital cost and the traditional requirement for both expertise and human resources necessary to integrate and maintain prior systems is reduced (col. 2, lines 7-9).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following references are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to a control interface system.

U.S. Patent No.: 5,777,896 discloses a display apparatus for operating and monitoring a plant.

U.S. Patent Publication No.: 2003/0060899 discloses a supervisory sequential controller interface and display that provides automatic sequencing of a plurality of sequential steps of a procedure.

U.S. Patent No.: 6,889,096 discloses an industrial plant management system comprising of a synchronized multiple view graphical user interface.

U.S. Patent No.: 6,421,571 discloses an industrial plant management system comprising of an synchronized multiple view graphical user interface.

U.S. Patent No.: 5,631,825 discloses an operator station for a manufacturing process control system for monitoring and controlling sequences of the manufacturing process.

U.S. Patent No.: 6,928,625 discloses a system and method for managing process control in a graphical user interface.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jennifer L. Norton whose telephone number is 571-272-3694. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 a.m - 4:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Knight can be reached on 571-272-3687. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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